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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In light of the recent misrepresentations of the nature of the situation in southern Lebanon, I wish to clarify the state of affairs which now prevails in the region and point out some salient facts regarding the situation.

The threat to peace and stability in the area emanates from Hizbollah and other terrorist organizations which continue to commit acts of violence and bloodshed. Frustrated by the continuing rounds of peace talks between Israel and her neighbours, Hizbollah and others have stepped up their campaign of terror. Their goal is to sabotage the peace process and to murder Israeli civilians. I refer Your Excellency to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel dated 27 January 1992 (S/23479), which outlined Hizbollah's opposition to the peace process and the increase in their terrorist activities. Since that time, Hizbollah's attacks have intensified even more.

Any doubts one may have regarding Hizbollah's intentions are quickly dispelled when one examines their pronouncements. On 18 February 1992, Sheikh Hasan Nasrallah, the Secretary General of Hizbollah, stated that, "For us, Israel will remain a cancerous gland that has to be removed and a fabricated entity that must be uprooted, even if the whole world recognizes it" (Voice of the Oppressed, 19 February 1992; FBIS-NES-92-033, p. 44). In an interview aired on the Voice of Lebanon on 2 May 1992, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Hizbollah, said, "From the beginning, we have not believed in the human aspect of the legitimacy of the state of Israel ... The question is one of struggle for existence with what we perceive as the Jewish octopus, which is linked to more than one arrogant global octopus" (FBIS-NES-92-087, p. 35). Hizbollah also unabashedly engages in vile anti-Semitic tirades. On 20 February 1992, a Hizbollah radio broadcast asserted that, "The Jews have an ignominious history of deviousness, hypocrisy and sin. Their penchant for crookedness and crime is both ingenious and inexhaustible. A Jew with power and a chance to manipulate would invariably commit any sin and perpetrate any fraud" (Voice of the Oppressed; FBIS-NES-92-035, p. 54). Preaching anti-Semitism and hatred and perpetrating violence are Hizbollah's raison d'être.

As the target of continuous and relentless terrorist attacks, and in view of the fact that the Lebanese Government is unwilling to take any measures to prevent such violence from its territory, Israel has been compelled to exercise its legitimate right to self-defence by engaging in operations against the terrorist organizations operating from the territory of Lebanon. Israel does not wish to see any escalation of the situation. Those to blame for the escalation are the Lebanese government, which has refused to disarm the terrorists and to fulfil its international obligation to halt the acts of violence directed against Israel, as well as Iran and Syria, which train, arm and finance Hizbollah and other terrorist groups and allow them to operate from areas in Lebanon under their control.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ephraim TARI
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.